

CLAIMS

1. A program list generating apparatus for generating a program list, comprising:

5 an acquiring unit operable to acquire a first title being a title of a first program;

an extracting unit operable to extract a first difference from the first title, the first difference being a portion of the first title and not being contained in a second title being
10 a title of a second program; and

a program list generating unit operable to generate the program list based on the first difference extracted by the extracting unit.

15 2. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the acquiring unit acquires the first and second titles from a program guide which shows information of a plurality of programs, and

20 the extracting unit extracts the first difference by removing, from the first title, one or more characters that are contained in both the first and second titles.

3. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the extracting unit further extracts a character sequence
25 having a predetermined length from the first difference, and the program list generating unit generates the program

list, which contains the character sequence having the predetermined length extracted by the extracting unit.

4. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 3, wherein
5 the extracting unit prestores information indicating a number of bytes that corresponds to the predetermined length, and extracts, from the first difference, the character sequence having the number of bytes indicated by the information.

10 5. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 4, wherein if a character sequence constituting the first difference is shorter than the character sequence having the number of bytes, the extracting unit combines part or all of the one or more characters with part or all of the character sequence
15 constituting the first difference to generate a combination character sequence having the number of bytes indicated by the information, and

the program list generating unit generates the program list, which contains the combination character sequence
20 generated by the extracting unit.

6. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 3 further comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive the first program;
25 and
a recording unit operable to record the received first

program into a recording medium in conformity with a first recording format, wherein

the extracting unit extracts, from the first difference, the character sequence having the predetermined length, which 5 corresponds to the first recording format.

7. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 6, wherein

the recording unit selects the first recording format among a plurality of recording formats that respectively correspond 10 to a plurality of types of recording mediums, and records the first program into the recording medium in conformity with the first recording format, and

the extracting unit prestores information that indicates a correspondence between the plurality of recording formats and 15 one or more lengths, and extracts, from the first difference, a character sequence having a length that corresponds to the first recording format.

8. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 3, being

20 connected to a monitor, wherein

the character sequence, which is extracted from the first difference by the extracting unit, conforms to a display format of the program list on the monitor.

25 9. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising:

a display format receiving unit operable to receive a display format of the program list on the monitor, wherein the extracting unit prestores information that indicates a correspondence between the plurality of display formats and 5 one or more lengths for each of a plurality of display formats, and extracts, from the first difference, a character sequence having a length that corresponds to the display format received by the display format receiving unit.

10 10. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the program list generating unit determines a font size of the character sequence extracted by the extracting unit, in accordance with the display format received by the display format receiving unit.

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11. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the program list generating unit determines a font type of the character sequence extracted by the extracting unit, in accordance with the display format received by the display format 20 receiving unit.

12. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 3, being connected to a monitor, wherein the character sequence extracted by the extracting unit 25 conforms to an attribute of the monitor.

13. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 12 further comprising:

5 a monitor information acquiring unit operable to acquire monitor information indicating a resolution of the monitor, from the monitor, wherein

10 the extracting unit prestores information that indicates a correspondence between a plurality of resolutions and one or more lengths, and extracts, from the first difference, a character sequence having a length that corresponds to the resolution indicated by the monitor information acquired by the monitor information acquiring unit.

14. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the first and second programs are broadcast on different 15 days, on a same channel, and for a same time period.

15. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:

20 a receiving unit operable to receive the first and second programs; and

a recording unit operable to record the received first and second programs, wherein

25 the extracting unit extracts the first difference from the first title, and extracts a second difference from the second title, the first and second differences being respectively portions of the first and second titles and being different from

each other, and

the program list generated by the program list generating unit contains the first and second differences.

5 16. The program list generating apparatus of Claim 15 further comprising:

a program list outputting unit operable to output the generated program list to an external monitor connected to the program list generating apparatus;

10 a program selection receiving unit operable to receive a selection of a program that is made by a user viewing the program list displayed on the monitor; and

a program reproduction unit operable to output reproduction of the program selected by the user, to the monitor.

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17. A program list generating method for generating a program list, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a first title being a title of a first program;

extracting a first difference from the first title, the

20 first difference being a portion of the first title and not being contained in a second title being a title of a second program; and

generating the program list based on the extracted first difference.

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18. A program list generating program for use in a program list

generating apparatus for generating a program list, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a first title being a title of a first program;

extracting a first difference from the first title, the

5 first difference being a portion of the first title and not being contained in a second title being a title of a second program;

and

generating the program list based on the extracted first difference.

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19. The program list generating program of Claim 18 being recorded in a computer-readable recording medium.

20. An integrated circuit of a program list generating apparatus

15 for generating a program list, comprising:

an acquiring unit operable to acquire a first title being a title of a first program;

an extracting unit operable to extract a first difference from the first title, the first difference being a portion of

20 the first title and not being contained in a second title being a title of a second program; and

a program list generating unit operable to generate the program list based on the first difference extracted by the extracting unit.